Instruction, manners, mysteries, and trades, Degrees, observances, customs, and laws, Decline to your confounding contraries [3], And yet confusion[4] live ! —Plagues, incident to men,
Your potent and infectious fevers heap
On Athens, ripe for stroke ! thou cold sciatica,
Cripple our senators, that their limbs may halt
As lamely as their manners ! lust and liberty[5]
Creep in the minds and marrows of our youth;
That 'gainst the stream of virtue they may strive,
And drown themselves in riot! itches, blains,
Sow all the Athenian bosoms ; and their crop
Be general leprosy ! breath infect breath;
That their society, as their friendship, may
Be merely poison ! Nothing I'll bear from thee,
But nakedness, thou detestable town !
Take thou that too, with multiplying banns[6]!
Timon will to the woods; where he shall find
The unkindest beast more kinder than mankind.
The gods confound (hear me, you good gods all,)
The Athenians both within and out that wall!
And grant, as Timon grows,, his hate may grow
To the whole race of mankind, high, and low!
Amen.

[Exit.

3— CONFOUNDING coiitrarics.] i. e. contrarieties whose nature it is to *waste* or *destroy* each other. So, in King Henry V.:

«------as doth a galled rock
" O'erhang and jutty his *confounded* base."
STEEVENS.

4— YET confusion —] Sir Thomas Hanmer reads, *let* confusion ; but the meaning may be, " though by such confusion all

things seem to hasten to dissolution, *yet* let not dissolution come,
but the miseries of *confusion* continue. JOHNSON.

s — liberty —] *Liberty* is here used for *libertinism. So,* in The Comedy of Errors :

" And many such like *liberties* of sin; " apparently meaning—
libertines. STEEVENS.

6 — MULTIPLYING banns !] i. e. accumulated curses. *Multiplying* for *multiplied:* the *active* participle with *& passive* signification. See vol. iv, p. 66, n. 1. STEEVENS.